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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SSO-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 IO-13 OMB-01 ORM-02
INRE-00 /082 W
----------091329Z 013011 /53
O R 091228Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3759
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION SINAI
DIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EG, US
SUBJECT: APRIL 9 PRESS ON SADAT VISIT

REF: CAIRO 6009

1. DAILIES APRIL 8 DEVOTED TO TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF SADAT FROM 10 DAY "JOURNEY OF PEACE". BANNERS AGAIN PROCLAIM SUCCESS OF SADAT MISSION AND REINFORCE IMAGE OF A US-EGYPTIAN PARTNERSHIP IN SEARCH OF PEACE. POINTS STRESSED WERE: .. EXCELLENCE OF SADAT'S IMPRESSION ON CARTER. THIS REINFORCED BY EXTENSIVE QUOTES FROM MARVIN KALB TO EF-FECT THAT CONTRAST BETWEEN "STIFFNECKED, COLD, AND DIFFI-
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CULT RABIN" AND "CHARMING, WARM, PERSONABLE, INTELLIGENT" SADAT HAVE INFLUENCED WHITE HOUSE PERCEPTIONS HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF EGYPT;
--ACTIVE USG ROLE. PRESIDENT CARTER WILL "PERSONALLY SUPERVISE DEPT WORKING GROUP WHICH WILL PREPARE FOR CONVOCATION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER," AND HE AGREES WITH SADAT THAT CONFERENCE

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MUST BE PRECEDED BY "AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTIES CONCERNED ON MAIN PRINCIPLES OF SOLUTION AND WAY THEY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED." REPORTS CLAIM SECRETARY VANCE WILL DISCUSS SITUATION WITH GROMYKO IN MAY, RETURN TO ME IN JUNE.
--US MOVEMENT TOWARDS EGYPTIAN POSITION. TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT THERE NO BASIS FOR CONCLUSION THAT "PEACE PROCESS SHOULD LAST TWO, FOUR OR EVEN EIGHT YEARS BUT THAT TIMETABLE SHOULD BE SET AND IMPLEMENTED." US VIEW SAID TO HINGE ON THREE POINTS: FRONTIERS, PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AND CONCEPT OF PEACE. PRESIDENT CARTER REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED TO SADAT THAT HIS STATEMENT ON BORDERS MEANT "THAT ISRAELI FORCES SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 WITH MINOR ALTERATIONS APPLYING TO DIVIDED VILLAGES IN WEST BANK."

2. "PRESIDENT CARTER FULLY AGREED THAT POLITICAL IDENTITY MUST BE ESTABLISHED FOR PALESTINIANS, THAT THEY MUST BE TRANSFORMED FROM REFUGEES INTO CITIZENS EXERCIZING NORMAL RIGHTS AND THAT THEY MUST HAVE PRINCIPAL ROLE IN THE SETTLEMENT. PRESIDENT CARTER EXPLAINED THAT HIS STATEMENT ON NATIONAL HOME FOR PALESTINIANS REFLECTED NEW UNDERSTANDING ON PART OF US."

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT PRAVDA HAS ATTACKED SADAT VISIT AND ATTEMPTED CAST DOUBT ON RESULTS OF TALKS.

4. EDITORIALS IN BOTH AHRAM AND GUMHURRIYA STRESS
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THAT EGYPT IS INDEED STRIVING FOR PEACE BUT WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS MILITARY POTENTIAL IN CASE "IT AGAIN FORCED TO ACT AS IT DID IN OCTOBER 1973"."
AKBAR EDITOR, MUSTAFA AMIN, BLASTS ISRAELI, SOVIET AND LIBYAN EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE SADAT MISSION. GOES ON TO ACCUSE LIBYANS AND CUBANS OF PREPARING PLANS TO INVADE SUDAN AND DECLARES EGYPT WILL FIGHT IF SUDAN ATTACKED.

COMMENT: PRESS HAS GONE TO UNUSUALLY OPTIMISTIC LENGTHS IN REPORTING USG "POSITIONS." THEY MAY SIMPLY HAVE GOTTEN CARRIED AWAY. INTERESTINGLY, ARMS QUESTION DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY FROM COVERAGE OR COMMENTARY. WE WILL BE WATCHING FOR ANY STATEMENTS SADAT MAY MAKE ON HIS RETURN AT 3:30 LOCAL TODAY.
MATTHEWS

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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